

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-10 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 3-10 are objected to because of informalities. Applicants amend the claims to overcome these objections.

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by newly cited Scheffer (4,032,218).

Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over newly cited Scheffer (4,032,218) in view of Itoh et al. (EP 0457607).

Claims 1 and 3-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kishimoto (JP 09-329779) in view of Itoh et al. (EP 0457607).

Analysis

Regarding the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC § 102, the Examiner alleges that the liquid crystal cell 3 of Scheffer corresponds to the optical rotatory layer of the present invention. However, the liquid crystal cell 3 of the Scheffer essentially has to have an alignment film and an electrode layer on both surfaces of the liquid crystal layer 3. Thus, Scheffer does not anticipate claim 1.

Regarding the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC § 103, the combination of Kishimoto and Itoh fails to teach or suggest providing the optical rotatory layer and the quarter-wave plate in the arrangement of amended claim 1. Kishimoto fails to disclose an absorption type polarizer on the other side of an optical rotatory layer from a quarter-wave plate. Even if one combined

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the disclosure of Kishimoto and that of Itoh, there is certainly no suggestion for the placement of the optical rotatory layer and the quarter-wave plate in this manner.

Therefore, the combination of Kishimoto and Itoh fails to render claim 1 obvious.

The remaining rejections are directed to the dependent claims. These claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, by virtue of their dependency therefrom.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: August 3, 2004

Attorney Docket No.: Q68205